GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:313
ANSWERED ON:05.08.2002
NATIONAL POLICY ON FLOOD CONTROL
RAM SINGH KASWAN;YOGI ADITYANATH

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to formulate any National Policy on flood control;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the measures adopted to save the life and property continuously being affected by floods ?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI)

(a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) OF STARRED QUESTION NO.313 TO BE ANSWERED IN THE LOK SABHA ON 5.08.2002 REGARDING NATIONAL POLICY ON FLOOD CONTROL

The National Water Policy, April, 2002 approved and adopted in the 5th meeting of the National Water Resources Council held under the Chairmanship of the Prime Minister of India on 1st April, 2002 inter alia provides measures for flood control and management which includes preparation of master plans for each flood prone basin, providing adequate flood cushion in water storage projects, construction of flood protection works like embankments and dykes and also non-structural measures such as flood forecasting and warning, flood plain zoning and flood proofing for the minimization of losses.

Earlier, in 1976, the Government of India had set up Rashtriya Barh Ayog (RBA) to examine and advise on various aspects relating to floods. The Ayog carried out extensive consultations with various States, experts and undertook detailed studies and submitted its report in March, 1980. The recommendations of RBA, which form the framework for flood management strategy in the country, were forwarded to all the State Governments for implementation. One of the important recommendations of RBA related to enactment of the Flood Plain Zoning Legislation by the States on the lines of Model Flood Plain Zoning Bill circulated to the States in 1975. In October 2001, an Experts Committee has been set up to review the present status of implementation of the recommendations of RBA and suggest suitable measures.

Further, the Ganga Flood Control Commission (GFCC) constituted by the Central Government in 1972 has prepared comprehensive plans for flood management for all the 23 river systems of Ganga basin. Similarly, the Brahmaputra Board constituted in 1982 has prepared Master Plans for the Brahmaputra & Barak rivers. These reports/Master Plans have been forwarded to respective State Governments for taking follow up actions on the recommendations made therein. Both short term and long term measures for flood management have been suggested in these plans.

As regards flood forecasting and warning, the Central Governemnt has set up 159 flood forecasting stations on major interstate rivers which give timely advance warning to flood affected regions in various States for mitigating flood damages.